

Selfridge Field
Building #1445, (Petroleum,
Oils, Lubricants Building) (Old Navy POL)
Sugarbush Road north of Bunker Road
~~Harrison Township~~, Mt. Clemens Vicinity
Macomb County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-SS

HAER
MICH
50-MTCLE V,
ISS-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GREAT LAKES SYSTEMS OFFICE
1709 JACKSON STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
MICH
50-MTCLV,
ISS -

SELFRIDGE FIELD, HAER No. MI-116-SS
BUILDING #1445, (PETROLEUM, OILS, AND LUBRICANTS BUILDING)
(Old Navy POL)

Location: Sugarbush Road north of Bunker Road
Selfridge Air National Guard Base
Mt. Clemens vicinity, Macomb County, Michigan
U.S.G.S. Mt. Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17.348470.4719600

Significance: Building #1445, constructed as a fuel operations and administration building to support SAC and later Navy operations at the base, is a utilitarian quonset hut whose significance is best defined as a contributing structure to the entire SAC installation, a regional SAC refueling center, responsible for protection of the Great Lakes region.

Description: It is a rectangular plan, single story, 20 by 500 foot corrugated metal quonset hut constructed of ten ranks of corrugated steel panels bolted onto a framework of rounded steel arches. It rests on a poured concrete foundation. The curving sidewalls lack fenestration but the apex of the arches are broken by two circular stove pipe roof vents. The principal (south) elevation presents a hipped gable silhouette with walls extending beyond the quonset arches. It displays a central pedestrian entry door shielded by an informal wood frame entry porch constructed of dimensional lumber and plywood. The opposite rear (north) elevation presents an identical central steel pedestrian entry door flanked by two vent voids now sealed by wood sheets. The interior now lacks internal dividing walls but displays a concrete floor with a raised concrete bermed platform in its northeast corner. Evidence of a partition wall occurs across the southern portion of the building.

History: This building was erected from standardized plans in 1961 at a cost of \$1,097 and was used as a fuel operations administration building. Plans on file at Base Civil Engineers Office reveal that renovations in 1962 partitioned off the southern 14 feet with a frame wall pierced by a central passage, while the northeast corner was partitioned off into a 6 by 6 foot toilet/ utility room. The building supported the SAC refueling wing operations at the base. During the Cold War, the 4045th and 500th Air Refueling Wings had the mission of constant readiness to respond to an alert and refuel SAC bombers on during alert and on scheduled missions. SAC ceased operations at Selfridge in 1965. The

Selfridge Field,
Building #1445 (Petroleum,
Oils, Lubricants Building)
HAER No. MI-116-SS
Page 2

building continued in use by the Navy as a fuel operations building until recently and is now vacant.

Sources:

Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan, 1977.

Construction drawing, dated October 19, 1962, Department of the Air Force Air Defense Command Installations, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Alter POL Operations, Sheet 1 of 2, SLF 140-070.

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Interview, Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995.

Historian:

William E. Rutter
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.
May, 1996